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LETTER

TO A

NOBLEMAN

In the COUNTRY,

On the AFFAIR of  
Mr. *ANNESLEY*.

CONTAINING

A Full and Distinct Account of that  
EXTRAORDINARY TRANSACTION  
and all its CIRCUMSTANCES.

Together with

Some PARTICULARS not  
hitherto mentioned.

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By an IMPARTIAL PEN.

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# LETTER

TO A

NOBLEMAN, &c.

MY LORD,

**I** DO not at all wonder at your Impatience, to be thoroughly informed as to the Issue of the late remarkable Cause between the young Gentleman, who claims to be Earl of *Anglesea*, and his Uncle; and as your Lordship has made choice of me to give you an impartial Detail of this Affair, on account of my having some Knowledge of the Family, and of the Suit, I think I am highly honoured thereby, and shall apply myself to the Discharge of what you have demanded with the utmost Diligence; though your Injunction of sending it by the the next Post, allows me less time for preparing my Materials, than I could have wished: however, as I have long ago taken pains to inform myself, as far as it was possible, of the Circumstances relating to this

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extraordinary Affair, I hope I shall be able to give you competent Satisfaction, as well with respect to Matters of Fact, as complying exactly with what you requested in regard to time. This you may further depend upon, that I have not the least Bias to either Side, but should be glad to see Truth prevail, let it lie on which Side it will; though, to speak my Sentiments, I am thoroughly persuaded that there is very little doubt, at present, on which Side it lies.

The Family of *Annesley* were originally of the *North of England*, and went over, as I have been informed, into *Ireland*, in the Reign of Queen *Elizabeth*, with the same Design that many other Families did, in order to better their Fortunes; and in this they were so successful, that they obtained not only large Estates in Land, but the honourable Titles of Viscount *Valentia*, and Baron *Mount-Norris* of that Kingdom, having also a considerable Estate in this. The Lord *Mount-Norris*, afterwards Viscount *Valentia*, in the Reign of *Charles I.* was one of the most considerable Noblemen in *Ireland*, and differed greatly with the potent Earl of *Strafford*, when he was Lord Lieutenant of that Kingdom; in which, how much soever he suffered from his Excellency, yet he had constant Right done him by the King his Master. But, however, the Remembrance of that proud Vice-Roy's ill usage, wrought so much upon this Family, that



that *Arthur Annesley* Esq; eldest Son to that Peer, being elected a Member of Parliament in *England*, adhered to that Body, when the civil War broke out between them and King *Charles*, and was by their Authority, sent over in the Quality of a Commissioner to *Ireland*. But as he was a very considerate Man, he acted there with great Prudence, and though he did every thing that was necessary to ingratiate himself with his new Masters; yet he did it without committing any Acts of Severity towards the King's Party, but rather shewing them all the Favour that was in his power.

He did not comply with *Cromwell's* Government, but remained firmly attached to the Long Parliament, and in conjunction with the famous *William Prynne*, and other Men of the same Disposition, gave that Usurper abundance of Trouble. When the Rump Parliament was restored, he came again into great Credit, and was actually at the Restoration the first Man in this Kingdom, being then President of the Council of State; and having had a great hand in disposing the Minds of such as were most able to have hindered the King's Return, not only to consent to, but to promote it, he was immediately after the Restoration created an *English* Peer, by the Title of Baron *Annesley* of *Newport-Pagnel* in the County of *Bucks*, and Earl of the Island of *Anglesea* in *North Wales*.

*Wales.* He remained in great Credit in the best part of King *Charles's* Reign, which enabled him to acquire a good Estate in *Ireland* in Possession, and a very large one after the Expiration of certain Leases; which, how he obtained I can not easily inform you, and therefore I choose to say nothing of the matter, except that those Leases are now at no great Distance from their Expiration; when the *Anglesea* Estate in *Ireland* will be much more considerable than it is at present. Under the Reign of King *James* he was also a very great Favourite; and at the time of his Death he was generally thought to stand fair for the Great Seal: which Demise of his happened on the 6th of *April*, 1686.

This *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesea*, as he was both an *English* and *Irish* Peer, so he became extremely desirous of establishing two noble Families, one in each Island; and with this view he procured his third Son *Richard Annesley* Esq; to be created Baron *Altham* of the Kingdom of *Ireland*; which *Richard* left behind him two Sons and a Daughter, viz. *Arthur* Lord *Altham*, whose Son the present *James Annesley* Esq; claims to be, and *Richard*, who is at present stiled Earl of *Anglesea*; and who bore, for several Years, the Title of *Altham*, his Brother *Arthur* being supposed to die without Issue. The Name of the Daughter was *Elizabeth*,  
who

who is at present Wife of the Lord *Haversham*, whose Name is recorded with Honour in the late Protest against the *Hanoverians*.

After having given your Lordship this Account of the Family, I shall observe to you, that *Richard* Lord *Altham*, the Father of the present Earl of *Anglesea* and the Grandfather of *James Annesley* Esq; was a Clergyman, and, if I remember right, Dean of *Exeter*, and Prebend of *Westminster*; he died in the Year 1701, and was buried with much Solemnity in *Westminster-Abbey*. His Son *Arthur* succeeded him as Lord *Altham*, and in the Year 1707 married Mrs. *Mary Sheffield*, Natural Daughter to the late Duke of *Buckinghamshire*, who was a very good Father to her, and gave her a considerable Fortune. About two Years after they were married Lord *Altham* quarrell'd with his Lady; upon which he came over into *England*, where he continued between three and four Years, and then Lady *Altham* following him, they were reconciled by her Father, and returned to *Ireland* in 1714. Soon after this her Ladyship miscarried in *Dublin*, by my Lord's falling into a Passion at the Sight of some China Saucers which had ugly Figures upon them, and which he had forbid to be brought to table while his Lady was pregnant. About the middle of the same Year she became with Child again, and was the *May* following delivered at his Lordship's House

House at *Drumcrau*, in the County of *Wexford*; where the Child was christened by Mr. *Lloyd*, who was then Chaplain to Lord *Altham*, and Curate of *Ross*, by the Name of *James*, one Mr. *Anthony Coucclough*, and Mr. *Cliff*, being Godfathers, and one Mrs. *Piggot* Godmother; all these were Persons of Family and Distinction, and though they are now dead, yet several of the Servants, who attended them at the Christening, are still living, and were produced at the Trial. This was the more practicable, since according to the common Custom in *Ireland*, prodigious Rejoicings and a mighty Feast was made upon this Occasion, which served to fix the Transaction firmly in the Minds of the common People.

This *Arthur*, Lord *Altham*, was a very debauched, and odd-tempered Man, had a abundance of low Amours, and was excessively given to sudden Starts of Passion, which made him but an indifferent Husband, and gained him no very good Character amongst his Neighbours and Tenants. He shewed, however, a great deal of Joy upon this Occasion, and expressed a more than ordinary Satisfaction at his Wife's being brought to bed of a Son, because it would disappoint his Brother *Richard* in his Expectation of the Estate and Title; and of all this, he made no manner of Secret. He was a Man prone to keep low Company, which, to say the truth,

truth, is the Vice of the Family, and to them he communicated his Thoughts without Reserve. *Moll Sheffield*, says he to one of these sort of People, has brought me a Son, and I hope he will be one day Earl of *Anglesea*. The Man not thinking of the Duke of *Buckinghamshire's* Daughter, began to tell him very honestly, that he ought to leave off leading such a Life. Life! what Life? says my Lord, adding with an Oath, she is my Wife. The Man then call'd to mind Lady *Altham's* Name, and made an Apology for his Mistake; this Circumstance fixed the matter firmly in the Man's Memory, and gave him an Opportunity of delivering the whole Conversation upon Oath at the Trial.

The Circumstances relating to this Child's Birth, were in themselves so strange, so extraordinary, and so out of the reach of Fiction, that the Proofs produced of them seem to establish the Fact better by much than it could have been by the most methodical Evidence; for when a Story is feign'd, all the Parts of it are well laid together, whereas in discovering things that happened many Years ago, you must take the Facts and the Evidence too as you find them, for they are out of the reach of Man to alter or adjust. When the Child was born and christened, the next thing was to get it nursed; and here Lord *Altham* discovered another  
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strange Turn of Temper ; he made choice of a Woman whose Name was *Joan Landy*, who had brought a Son into the World before she was married, some said by a Sailor, some by the Man to whom she afterwards became a Wife; but the Woman herself, and the Generality of the Country, fathered it upon Lord *Altham*: it was indeed a little odd, that his Lordship should think of this Woman for the Nurse of his Son and Heir ; but I own the subsequent Contrivance of confounding this Son and Heir with the Natural Son, was no bad Scheme to defeat the Right of the former. Two things, however, appeared very plainly upon the Trial; first, that *Joan Landy's* Son was considerably elder than Lady *Altham's*; and secondly, that this Bastard was carried off by the Small-Pox, at four Years of Age, which was made out by the credible Testimony of several Witnesses, who swore to the seeing him dead and buried.

The poor Lady *Altham* knew nothing more of *Joan Landy* than that she had Milk. She had another Nurse recommended to her by a Person of Worth in the Neighbourhood, and had actually settled the Terms with the Woman's Husband, and given him earnest, but her Milk was said to be bad; and so *Joan Landy* was introduced, my Lady not suspecting in the least, that she was her Husband's Mistress. There

was

was this Particular attended the nursing, which was very extraordinary, that there was a House fitted up for Mrs. Nurse, within a quarter of a Mile of Lord *Altham's* House, and a Coach-Road made between the two Houses, for the Conveniency of carrying the Child backwards and forwards at all times. This was proved by many Witnesses, and indeed as it was a Fact known to the whole Country, it might have been proved by many more, if it had been thought at all necessary. At this House the Child remained for six Months, and then was committed to the Care of another Woman as a dry Nurse.

The Name of this Woman was *Joan Laffan*, who gave a long and distinct Evidence at the Trial, and who declared that both Lord and Lady treated the Child with the utmost tenderness, till the time of their Separation, which fell out in the following manner. Some of Lord *Altham's* Mistresses found his fondness for his Son, made him more than usually tender of his Wife; which not being at all suitable to their Interests, they contrived to make him jealous of her and one *Thomas Palliser*, who lived in, or was about, the House. They carried this so far, as to promise his Lordship ocular Demonstration of the Crime with which they charged my Lady; and as they had the House and the Servants pretty much at their

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command,

command, they play'd off the following pretty Plot for that purpose. They got *Tom Palliser* to go up into Lady *Altham's* Room, where she was a-bed and asleep, under a pretence that her Ladyship wanted to speak with him; and the Moment he entered one Door, they introduced my Lord, and several People he had with him, at another. Lord *Altham*, who was certainly no *Solomon*, took this for ocular Demonstration, drew his Sword, and was going to murder the Man without further Ceremony; but his Advisers knew better things, and therefore entreated his Lordship to moderate his Passion, and be content with cutting his Nose or his Ears off; and his Lordship relishing this good Advice, was pleased to direct his Huntsman to cut *Tom Palliser's* Ear off, which was performed accordingly, in the sight of his Lordship's Son; who, though he could not speak, testified his Concern to his Nurse, by shewing her the Blood that had been spilt in the Execution. When this fine Exploit had been performed, the poor Lady was given to understand, that she was to take shelter where she could; in this dreadful Situation, she thought of retiring to one Captain *Butler's* at *Ross*, a place but two Miles from Lord *Altham's* House; and in order to get thither, a Chaise and Horse was prepared. In the mean time, the Lady was embracing and crying over her Son, whose Fate, she already forefaw,

foresaw, would soon be as miserable as her own. Lord *Altham*, who at this time, was very fond of the Child, soon made a strict Enquiry after him, and hearing that he was with his Mother, he ran to her and pulled him out of her Arms. The poor Lady begged earnestly that she might have the Consolation of bringing up her Son; but my Lord told her roughly, that he was to be the Heir of his Honours and Estate, and that she should not have him; nay, he carried his Cruelty so far, that he refused to let the Mother give the Child a parting Kiss; but at last, by the Intercession of the Servants, he was prevailed upon to let her kiss him, but immediately repented that piece of Good-nature; and went to take him from her as she held him in the Chaise, which occasioned a Struggle for the Child, that was expressly sworn to by several Witnesses at the Trial.

Lord *Altham's* Resentment carried him so far, after he had turned his Lady out of Doors, that he gave express Orders she should never be permitted to see the Child; as was sworn by *Joan Laffan* the Nurse, and other Servants. But however, these Orders were but indifferently obeyed; for either out of love to their Lady, or for the Lucre of Money, some who were about the House, carried the Boy to *Ross*, where his Mother kissed, embraced, and wept over him; of which his Lordship being informed, he flew



into violent Passions, and threatned with the utmost Effects of his Resentment such as should presume to be guilty of the enormous Crime of letting an injured afflicted Mother see her only Son. His Lordship however still behaved towards his Son *James* with more Kindness and Prudence than could have been expected from a Man of his odd Temper, by causing him to be brought up in a manner suitable to his Quality, and by shewing and recommending him to the Notice of his Relations and Neighbours. When he was able to go to School, he was sent thither with a Servant to attend him; and when he grew bigger, my Lord took a young Man into his House to assist the Child in his Learning; which was proved on the Trial by Mr. *Misset*, who was at School with the Child, and by *James Dempsey*, the young Man who was taken home to teach him, who knew Mr. *Annesley* again as soon as he saw him at an Inn in the Country, and swore positively at the Trial that Mr. *James Annesley*, who he saw there, was the identical Person he had taught when a Child in Lord *Altham's* House; where he was stiled sometimes young Lord, at others the Hon. Mr. *James Annesley*, and always owned by his Father as his lawful Son and Heir apparent.

But there is a Circumstance I had like to have forgot: Some little time after Lady  
*Altham*



*Altham* was turned out of Doors, Lord *Altham's* Brother, at present stiled Earl of *Anglesea*, and then called Capt. *Annesley*, came to the House, and shewed great Satisfaction at the Situation things were in, asking particularly if my Lady saw her Son when she went away? and how she behaved at Parting? Which when he had heard, and that she was very desirous of taking her Son with her if Lord *Altham* would have permitted it, the Captain said very kindly, that he was sorry he did not; that he wished his Brother had kept none of the Breed, but had sent both Mother and Son together to the Devil. This likewise was sworn at the Trial, and is, I think, as extraordinary a Passage as any that occurred in the whole Proceedings; because it shews how well Lord *Altham's* Notion was founded, who thought the Birth of this Son would give the Captain no small Pain, or, to make use of his Lordship's polite Phrase, would make his Brother's Nose swell; as on the other hand, it plainly proves how early that Rancour began, which had afterward such unhappy Effects, and how willingly Capt. *Annesley* would have consigned Lady *Altham* and her Son to the Devil, when neither of them could have given him any Offence, further than as their Relation to Lord *Altham* prevented his having any legal Prospect of inheriting his Estate and Title.

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The Circumstances of Lord *Altham* being none of the best, and his Lordship of a very roving Inclination, he removed from the House where his Son was born in the County of *Wexford* to *Kenna* in the County of *Kildare*, and from thence to *Carrickduff* in the County of *Carlow*; from whence about the Year 1719, he came to reside in *Dublin*, where he lived in a House in *Cross-Lane*. In all these shifting of Quarters his Son was taken more care of than could well have been imagined, the Humours and Fickleness of his Father considered, sent to a Publick School in the City, attended by a Servant, and dressed in a manner suitable to his Quality, and the Anniversary of his Birth-Day kept with great Rejoicings. About 1720, Lady *Altham* came to *Dublin*, and lodged at the House of one Mr. *Cavenagh*, in the *Stable-Yard*, for some time, and expressed a desire of seeing her Son, who did not live far from her; but was refused that Favour, and the Boy was threatned that if ever he presumed to go and see his Mother, or even to go any where that she might see him, he should be turned out of Doors, and his Father would take no further notice of him.

This was a strange Turn, and therefore it is necessary to account for it: It seems there was a young Lady, one Miss *Sally Gregory*, a Relation of his Lordship's, had got  
into

into his Family, and by degrees into his Affections, she began very early to shew a great Distaste to the Child, and endeavoured to get him out of her way; but as Lord *Altham's* Fondness was not to be overcome all at once, she was obliged to make use of many Arts to root out the Interest he had in his Father. Of this the unfortunate Lady *Altham* received Notice, and very great Pain it gave her; insomuch, that she sent for one *Catherine Oneal*, who had lived in his Lordship's Family, both in Country and in Town, to enquire after her Son, and into the manner in which he was treated; and though this Woman endeavoured to comfort her, and even assured her, that Miss *Gregory* behaved to him as became a Relation; yet Lady *Altham* remained still very much dissatisfied; wrote a Letter to Mrs. *Weed*, who was House-keeper to Lord *Altham*, and desired *Catherine Oneal* to carry it. This was one of the last Acts of maternal Attention paid by the poor Lady to her Son for some time; in the Year 1723, her Grief joined to an Indisposition, under which she had laboured from the time of her lying-in, brought upon her a dead Palsy; which first rendered her almost helpless in her Body, and by degrees affected the Faculties of her Mind so that she quickly lost, at least in a great Measure, the Use of her Memory and Senses. In this deplorable Condition, she came over

to *England*, and was supported to her Death by the late Duchess of *Buckinghamshire*.

After Lady *Altham*'s departure, Miss *Gregory* assumed her Title, and was called by all her own Creatures in the Family, Lady *Altham*; and having long insinuated to my Lord, that if he was jealous of his Lady, it proceeded doubtless from good Grounds, and if he had Grounds for being jealous, then possibly her Intrigues began earlier than he suspected; from all which they inferred, that there might be reason to fear Master *Jemmy* was not his own Son. This had not its full Effect at first, and then another Method was tried, the Boy was said to be too much indulged, the Servants were inclined to spoil him, he was grown from the prettiest best-bred Boy in the World, so wild, and so rude, that out of pure Care of his Education, Miss *Gregory* prevailed to have him removed to the House of one Mrs. *Cooper* in *Ship-street*, where he was boarded, and put to School. Lord *Altham*, after this, removed to a House in *Proper-Lane*, where he took home his Son Mr. *James Annesley*, and sent him to School, still owning him for his Son and Heir, though he did not use him so kindly, or treat him with so much Tendernefs as formerly.

Things being carried this length, Miss *Gregory* began to prevail daily more and more, and some other People thought fit to lend

lend their Assistance to extirpate the Reliques of paternal Tenderness which remained in Lord *Altham's* Bosom. His Affairs were fallen into such Confusion, his Debts were so great, and his Credit so much sunk, that he was in the utmost Perplexity of Mind. When, therefore, he left *Dublin*, to go down into the Country, to a Place called *Inchicore*, Master *James* was left behind him, and was afterwards sent to live at the House of one Mr. *Connaugh*, a Dancing-Master, who had Orders to keep him as much as possible within Doors; the Reason of this was, that it had been put into Lord *Altham's* Head, he might raise Money upon the Reversion of the *Anglesea* Estate, to which he had a right, provided this Boy was out of the way. It is very strange, that these sort of Motives should induce a Man to be cruel to his own Flesh and Blood, and even to form a Design of abandoning and disinheriting his only Son. A Son, whose Birth had given him so much Joy, and who had held the principle Place in his Affection for so many Years. Yet strange as this appears, the Author of a late Pamphlet, entitled *THE PARELLEL*, which was certainly intended to illustrate the Case of Mr. *Annesley*, has given an Instance that comes very near it, where a Father and Mother agreed to disown their Daughter, in order to make a Provision for a Son, and where the Mother

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refused



refused, though the Son was dead, to acknowledge her ; so soon does an ill Habit get the better of Nature, and so hard a thing is it to forgive those whom we have injured. I could not help making this little Digression, which I dare say your Lordship will not think unworthy your Notice, when you have read the Pamphlet I recommend to you. But let me now return to the Thread of my Story, and the Detail of Mr. *Annesley's* increasing Misfortunes; which now came upon him thicker and heavier every Day, and yet with such Circumstances as have proved instrumental to his Preservation.

The Usage Mr. *James Annesley* met with at the House of *Connaugh* the Dancing-Master, was such as he could not bear, he was debarred of his Liberty, and cut short of his Victuals. This made him very impatient, and having no Friends to apply to in *Dublin*, he resolved to make his Escape, and get to his Father's House at *Inchicore*. This was a childish Project, but it was agreeable to his Years, for he was not above ten Years old, and it was executed with as much Rapidity as it was projected. When he came down to *Inchicore*, he was not received by my Lord, or so much as permitted to enter the House, but turned out and abandoned to the wide World ; and this, after being carried by his Father into the best Company, as his Son and Heir, and one who might



might probably inherit the Title of *Anglesea*, and all the Honours of the Family. It was a strange Event, but an Event, which upon Reflection, appears to coincide exactly with Lord *Altham's* Temper, who was a Man entirely governed by Whim, and we may collect pretty exactly the Succession of Whims that governed him in all his Transactions. After his Reconciliation with his Wife, the reigning Whim was a lineal Successor, that might cut off the Hopes of his Brother, which shews that, however, it might be disguised, there was something unnatural in his Temper, of which his Brother was then the Object, and afterwards his Son. The next Whim that struck him, was the producing this Child to all the World as one destined to great Things, of which several Instances appeared upon the Trial, particularly to the Lord *Mount-Alexander*, or to one Captain *Grove*, in his Presence, when he ventured to assert, that this Son of his would defeat the Hopes of his Brother, and to one *John Turner*, who had been Seneschal or Steward of his Courts to *James* Earl of *Anglesea*; he went further, telling him, You were Seneschal to Earl *James* and Earl *Arthur*, you will out-live me, and you may be Seneschal to this Boy. The next reigning Whim was that of teasing his Lady, after he had suffered himself through the Intrigues of her Enemies to become jealous; and we have

seen to what mighty Lengths this was carried ; his last Humour was to make himself easy, by selling his Reversion of the *Angle-sea* Estate at the Expence of his Family, and this led him, as he had turned his Wife out of Doors, to gratify his own Humour, to turn his Son out of Doors to satisfy his Interest ; though in both, he acted as a Tool to others, as most weak Men do.

In this forlorn and distressed Situation, poor Mr. *Annesley* came up to *Dublin*, and for two Years rambled about the Streets in that wretched Condition, which those who brought him to it, would have converted into a Proof that he merited no better, and that since, in the Life-time of his Father, he had been turned into the Streets, and, perhaps, brought to black Shoes ; so now, for the Convenience of his Uncle, he should be kept there. But I observe to you, that his very Misfortunes contributed to his Preservation. I must beg Leave to explain this a little, because it is the great Point, upon which not only this, but every Case of a like Nature must turn. It was in the Power of Lord *Altham* to turn his Son and Heir into the Streets ; but it was not in HIS, his Brother's or Miss *Gregory's* Power to efface the Memory of past Events. All the People at *Dublin*, to whom Lord *Altham* had shewed this Son of his, saw and wondered at his strange turn of Fortune, so did the old Servants

vants in the Family, and so did his School-fellows; and these last succour'd and relieved him: he lay sometimes in the Out-houses of Mr. *Byrne*, a noted Brewer in *Dublin*, and received Kindnesses from his Sons; which, as I before noted, he asserted upon his Oath at the Trial, and fixed the Identity of the Person by asserting Mr. *James Annesley*, then present, to be the same to whom these Civilities were shewn.

But there was still something more than all this, the Boy's Spirit and Courage survived his Fortune, and this enabled him to preserve his Rank; insomuch, that naked and destitute as he was, he commanded amongst his Equals in Age that Respect, of which a wrong-headed Father and the dastardly Temper of a degenerate World would have deprived him: in short, the Boys called him always *My Lord*. This Appellation marked and distinguished him, forced People to look upon and consider him, and excited many to enquire why he was so called? and where they had Bowels or Understanding to pity and deplore his Misfortunes. It is impossible that all this should not have reached his Father's Ears; but by this time his Heart was sufficiently hardened, and the Remembrance of the Injuries he had already done his Son, made it seem requisite for him to persist in doing him greater. He thought perhaps, that the less he appeared a Father,  
the

the more likely the World would be to think that the Boy was not his Son. But he had not been always in these Notions, for but a few Years before he had engaged *John Turner* before mentioned to apply to the Earl of *Anglesea* for some pecuniary Assistance; but as he very well knew that his own Behaviour could not merit it, he suggested that it was necessary for the Support and Education of his Son. Such an Application was accordingly made by *Turner* to the Earl of *Anglesea*, who, out of Compassion for the Child, kindly gave to his unnatural Father 50 *l*. When therefore this very Man, this *John Turner*, saw the Boy in the Streets in such a Condition that, as he himself expressed it, no Black-guard Boy was half so bad, he was surprized and amazed, and could scarce believe his Eyes, or at least reconcile the Information they gave him to that which he received by his Ears; a poor Woman that sold Potatoes telling him, that the Boy the Children called *My Lord*, was my Lord *Altham's* Son; the very individual Son my Lord himself had owned for his Heir to this *Turner*, and had predicted that *Turner* would out-live himself, and see this Child Earl of *Anglesea*. These were Facts of such a nature, that to be sure they could never be effaced from *Turner's* Memory if he lived to the general Conflagration.

It



It is natural to suppose, that as an Accident of this kind, I mean a Boy's being turned into the Streets, who was the next Heir of a Peerage, must astonish the Populace in general, so it would particularly alarm such as had any Relation to or Correspondence with the *Annesley* Family; which was, and is, extremely numerous, both in *Ireland* and here. Accordingly several Applications were made to Lord *Altham*, especially at first, by Persons of different Ranks, to whom his Lordship, as it appeared upon Oath at the Trial, did not pretend to deny the Child, but said he had behaved idly, acted fillily, and had got some vicious Tricks, of which when he was broke, he should be restored to his Lordship's Favour. To think of mending a Boy by turning him into the Streets, or to teach a Child Duty by neglecting one's own, was a Doctrine I believe of his Lordship's Invention, and the Event was such as might have been expected; the Boy finding himself wholly abandoned and thrown off, thought of nothing but how to get Bread, and placed all his hopes, where the brutal Behaviour of his Father taught him to place them, in the Death of that unnatural Parent. His Education was indeed lost, but not his Reason, and even his Play-fellows in the Streets of *Dublin*, could sufficiently inform him, that when his Father died, he must be Lord *Altham*, and that consequently  
his

his Fortune would then change. It was very unlucky for Mr. *Annesley*, that this sort of Logic was so easy, that it was comprehended even by other People, who were not much famed for Penetration; and as he placed all his Hopes in his Father's Death, so they were employed in contriving Schemes for defeating even those distant Expectations.

The Peregrinations of Mr. *Annesley* in and about *Dublin*, lasted for about two Years, during which time, he was more taken notice of, and more talked of, ten times, than if he had been still with his Father, and still considered in his Family as Heir apparent to the Titles and Estates of the noble Family of *Annesley*. As the Son of a Peer of *Ireland*, he had been dressed in a scarlet Cloak, a Hat and Feather, and laced Linnen, all this was but natural, and no body would have wondered at it; but a Lord's Son in the Company of Shoe-blackers, with a ragged Coat, and perhaps without a Shirt, was a Prodigy, such a one as all *Dublin* began to ring of it. It therefore imported, such as had an Interest in defeating Mr. *Annesley*'s Pretensions, to think of some way to get him out of Sight; for they began now to discern their Error, viz. That if they had suffered him to remain at home, or at least in some obscure Town in the Country, they would have been exposed to no danger but what arose from the Family; whereas by treating him  
in



in this manner, they had taken all the Inhabitants in *Dublin* for Witnesses. This was a great Blot, but the Business was to get over it; and what Expedient so proper as sending the Boy to the *West-Indies*, vulgarly call'd Kidnapping. The Scheme appeared to be as easy in its Execution, as when executed, it bid fair for being effectual. In *Dublin*, Lord *Altham's* Son was known and pitied, but he might be trapped into one of the Plantations, where the Name of Lord *Altham* was never heard of; and how a Friendless Boy should get home again, was a thing of which they had no Conception.

It would be a tedious and fatiguing Story, should I trouble your Lordship with all the Practices that followed upon this fine Plot; but if your Lordship should incline to know them, I am at your Service, and ready to enter into the Circumstances of that, as well as the rest. For the present, it will be sufficient to say that two Attempts were made without Success; but towards the close of the Year 1726, a third proved more successful, and the poor Boy was spirited away to *Delawar* River, where he was fairly sold to a Planter, after having suffered a thousand Hardships and Indignities in the Voyage. All this however, could not break the Boy's Spirit, or blot out of his Memory the Thoughts of better Days; he constantly persisted, during the time he remained in

E *Virginia*,

*Virginia*, in asserting that he was the Son of Lord *Altham*, and was very assiduous in enquiring News from *Ireland*, though to very little purpose; for in spite of all these Enquiries, he remained thirteen Years there, in the same low and abject Condition of a Servant, sold for a Term of Years which he was bound to fulfil, and in case he attempted to make his Escape, to serve them over again. In the Year 1727 Lord *Altham* died, and his Brother assumed his Title. You will easily perceive, that this Event following in so short a time after the Son and Heir of Lord *Altham* had been exhibited in so extraordinary a manner, in the Streets of *Dublin*, it must be attended with some degree of wonder. Accordingly a general Murmur ensued, and very particular Whispers there were among the Servants, and Relations of the Family, to which this short Answer was given; *That Femmy Annesley was dead*. When, or where, was not said. To have pretended at that time, that he was a Bastard, would not have answered the purpose, the contrary was generally known; and as there are still a Cloud of particular Persons, who know, and who have deposed the contrary, so at that time the Multitude was much greater. The Answer then was short, and significant. *James Annesley*, Son and Heir apparent to *Arthur Lord Altham*, is dead—And therefore—I need not

not trouble you with the rest, the Succession was known of Course. But give me leave to remark, that this very Answer, from the Mouths of those who gave it, was clearer, and more conclusive Evidence, than a thousand Testimonies of this Lad's Legitimacy; for it is easy to perceive, that the Conclusion which followed from *James Annesley's* being dead, inferred his Title if he was living; and therefore the single Question, as to the point of Succession, was reduced to this, Whether *Jemmy Annesley*, who ran about the Streets of *Dublin*, with the Surname, or Nickname, or whatever else you will please to call it, of *My Lord*, was living or dead? Thus it clearly appears, that this very Circumstance of turning him out of Doors, and leaving him to the wide World, that is, to his shifts, however intended, was in Reality, the Circumstance most favourable to his Pretensions; and this I take to be a Matter of the greatest Weight, and therefore I have insisted upon it so often.

While things were thus passing in *Ireland*, Mr. *Annesley* was groaning under the heavy Load of Slavery in *Virginia*, far from his Native Country, I cannot say far from his Friends, for the Poor are seldom near them be they where they will, and comforting himself with the hopes that his Father would some time or other die, and thereby afford

him a Deliverance. The old Proverb says very truly, that *Man proposes, and God disposes*; which, perhaps, was never verified more signally than in this Instance. The Event, which he expected, fell out without furthering his Liberty in the least; Providence referred that to a more seasonable Opportunity. If he had returned some Years after his Father's Death, the Estate of Lord *Altham* would scarce have moved any body to have stirred on his Behalf; and things were then so situated, that I verily believe his coming home at that time would have done him no manner of Service: We will therefore leave him deploring his Misfortunes, and sighing for Liberty, and see what Turn another Person's Affairs took in this Season.

The Barony of *Altham* was not more easily assumed than quietly enjoyed, Murmurs began to subside, and all but the Consciences of the Guilty had lost the Memory of the Fact; when a new Event produced another remarkable Alteration in the Family. On the 31st of *March* 1737 died *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesea*, one of the greatest Men of his Age, who had distinguished himself by his Eloquence in both Houses of Parliament, and in the Parliaments of both Kingdoms; but much more by his constant Adherence to the true Interest of his Country. The latter Part of his Life indeed he had spent in Retirement,

Retirement, which I take to be the reason why his Death did not appear so great a Loss as it really was. Upon this, *Richard* Lord *Altham*, of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, assumed the Title of *Anglesea*, to which, if his Brother *Arthur* left no Issue, he had undoubtedly a Right; and very soon after his Lordship came over hither, and enter'd upon it fully, notwithstanding some Family-Disputes, with which I have nothing to do. Yet after some time, even these were adjusted, and the Sky appeared quite clear.

But as Calms are frequently followed by Storms; so when the unfortunate Wanderer was in a manner wholly forgotten, he made his Escape, and very fortunately for him came to *Jamaica*; from whence he was sent home by Admiral *Vernon*. His Arrival and his Claim made a very great Noise, and was very publickly taken notice of; notwithstanding the Danger that attended the publishing any thing to the Prejudice of a Person in so high Rank. The Earl was not regardless of his Danger; on the contrary, he took all the Advantages that naturally arose from the young Man's setting up this Claim in *England*, where the People were not acquainted either with his Person or his Misfortunes, and therefore treated him as a bold and impudent Pretender; and, as I have been informed, actually prepared a Petition to a certain August Assembly against  
Mr.



Mr. *Annesley*, for presuming to call himself the Son of his Father; though, for certain Reasons, that at this time I shall not mention, it was not presented.

How distressed soever Mr. *Annesley* might be, and how uncertain soever the Event of his Claim, yet he was far from wanting Support. Curiosity drew some to enquire into his Affair, and upon an Enquiry, there was so strong an Appearance of Truth found in his Story, that they could not bear the Thoughts of letting him sink for want of Support; notwithstanding the visible Disadvantages his Cause laboured under. A thing of this Nature required much Consideration; and in the mean time it was thought proper, that the young Gentleman should pass a part of his Time in the Country. There, again, an unlucky Accident fell out, that seemed to threaten him with even greater Mischiefs than any that had hitherto befallen him. The Place of his Retreat was *Egham*; a pleasant Village on the Edge of the County of *Surrey*; where going abroad one Day with a Person, who is Game-keeper to a Reverend and Honourable Gentlemen, Lord of a Manor in that Neighbourhood; a Poacher, in a sudden Struggle, was unluckily killed, for which Mr. *Annesley* was taken up and indicted at the next Sessions, at the *Old Bailey* for Murder. The rest of that Affair, and the extraordinary

ordinary Circumstances that attended his Trial, are too well known for me to mention; except that the Prosecution was abetted, and the Expence of it defray'd by the Person in the World, who, in common Prudence, should have had least to do with it.

After Mr. *Annesley* had been tried and acquitted, he applied himself to the Prosecution of his Claim to the Estate of his Family, and in order to bring the Matter to a clear and legal Issue; he was resolved to question first, the Right of the present Possessor to the Estates in the County of *Meath*, in the Kingdom of *Ireland*; and with this View, he made a Lease of Lands, which were Part and Portion of the said Estate in that County, to *Campbell Craig* Gentleman; as Son and Heir apparent to *Arthur Lord Altham*, and otherwise, as directed by able Lawyers. Upon this Lease, Mr. *Campbell Craig* ejected Lord *Anglesea's* Tenants, and was ousted as the Law-Phrase is, by the Earl, upon which he brought his *Quo Minus* in the Court of Exchequer; where the Issue being made up, the Cause, after various Delays, came on to be tried before the Barons of the Exchequer, upon *Friday Nov. 11, 1743*, and was continued by Adjournment, to that Day Fortnight; when the Jury, composed of Gentlemen of the best Families, and largest Fortunes, brought in a Verdict for the Plaintiff, by which they determined

terminated the Right in the Estate to be with the Lessor of the Plaintiff; that is, in *James Annesley Esq;* who could have given no Title to *Mr. Craig*, if he had not been Son and Heir apparent to *Arthur Lord Altham*, and as such, Heir also to *Arthur* late Earl of *Anglesea*.

Thus I have given your Lordship a short and, I hope, clear Account of this intricate and perplexed Affair, and if there be any thing which you incline to have further explained, you know I am entirely at your Service : Only let me beseech you, in case you put me upon writing a second Letter to you upon this Subject, to give me a little more time, that I may have leisure to put my Thoughts into better Order ; for though Truth may, generally speaking, be seen by its own Light, yet it is better seen and appears with more Advantage, when placed in a proper Position. At present, I have nothing more to add, but that I ask pardon for the Haste with which this is written, and am,

*With profound Respect and Esteem*

December  
24, 1743.

*Your Lordship's*

*Most dutiful humble Servant.*